Functioning of War House in the Department of Commerce

956. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 'War House' has been constituted in the Department of Commerce;

(b) whether its meetings are being held regularly;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with its working; and

(d) the main points of its investigations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Standing Group consisting of commerce Secretary, Revenue Secretary, Secretary (SSI and ARI), Secretary (Deptt, of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), Secretary (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and Director General of Foreign Trade for Tracking, collating and analyzing import data of 300 sensitive items. The group has already started functioning and has held 3 meetings. As per the analysis of the data conducted by the group it is seen that the total import of 300 sensitive items for the period April—June 2001 has shown a negative growth rate of 13% compared to the same period last year. Based on the import data, the group has concluded that the overall picture that emerges from these quick estimates is one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors and that the present tariff structure and other steps taken by the Government are adequate enough to prevent any surge in imports. The Group is working satisfactorily.

Industrialisation of backward districts in Andhra Pradesh

957. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government have initiated for the industrialisation of industrially backward districts of Mahbubnagar and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh apart from rebate in income tax; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) what are the results of these efforts in these two districts of the State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries, in addition to income tax rebate under section 80-1B of Income Tax Act, have sanctioned two rural clusters for development of Brass Metal Works and Pandusukhadi in the district of Srikakulam.

Besides, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have announced a set of incentives including Investment Subsidy, Deferment/Tax Holiday on Sales Tax, Rebate in Electricity charges and Interest Subsidy for SCST entrepreneurs, under the New Industrial Policy "Target-2000".

(b) As per the report of the State Government, 106 industrial units (including 14 large scale units) have been established in Mahbubnagar District with a capital investment Rs. 460.67 crores and thereby creating an additional employment of 4090 persons in Mahbubnagar District. Similarly, 112 new industrial units, includes 15 large scale units have been set up in Srikakulam District. The capital investment in these units have been Rs. 168.61 crores and which was responsible for creation of an additional employment to 3108 persons.

Complaint on import of High Styrene Rubber from EU

958. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry requesting to investigate the import of High Styrene Rubber from the European Union, Poland and other countries;

(b) if so, by when such complaint was received in the Ministry; and

(c) what is the action contemplated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) had initiated Anti-Dumping investigations on import of High Styrene Butadiene